

Appl. No. 09/825,045  
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A selective noise canceling  
5 headset, comprising:

at least one earpiece for reproducing a selected audio  
signal;

a microphone for monitoring an external audio signal in  
a vicinity of said headset; and

10 a selective noise suppression circuit for analyzing  
said external audio ~~signal and for selectively reproducing at~~  
~~least a portion of said external audio signal that is likely to~~  
~~be of interest to a user.~~ signal, for in the absence of undesired  
noise permitting said external audio signal to be added to said  
15 selected audio signal for reproduction via said at least one  
earpiece, and for preventing such reproduction of said external  
audio signal at times that undesired noise is present.

2. (original): The selective noise canceling headset of  
20 claim 1, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio  
signal is an alarm audio signal.

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3. (original): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background noise of a local environment.

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4. (original): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is associated with speech directed to a user of said headset.

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5. (original): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit suppresses said external audio signal unless a portion of said external audio signal is likely to be of interest to a user.

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6. (original): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit segments said external audio signal and reproduces only a desired portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.

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7. (currently amended): The selective noise canceling headset of claim 1, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit ~~emphasizes a desired portion~~ amplifies portions of said external audio signal ~~that is likely to be of interest to a user~~ over added to said selected audio signal.

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8. (currently amended): A selective noise canceling device, comprising:

a microphone for monitoring an external audio signal;  
and

5 a selective noise suppression circuit for analyzing said external audio ~~signal and for selectively reproducing at least a portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.~~ signal, for in the absence of undesired noise permitting at least a portion of said external audio signal  
10 to be reproduced, and for preventing such reproduction of said external audio signal at times that undesired noise is present.

9. (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio  
15 signal is an alarm audio signal.

10. (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background noise  
20 of a local environment.

11. (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is associated with speech directed to a user of said  
25 device.

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12. (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit suppresses said external audio signal unless a portion of said external audio signal is likely to be of interest to a user.

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13. (original): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit segments said external audio signal and reproduces only a desired portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.

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14. (currently amended): The selective noise canceling device of claim 8, wherein said selective noise suppression circuit ~~emphasizes a desired portion~~ amplifies portions of said external audio signal ~~that is likely to be of interest to a user~~ over said selected audio signal. reproduced.

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15. (currently amended): A selective noise canceling method, comprising:

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monitoring an external audio signal;

analyzing said external audio signal; ~~and~~

~~selectively reproducing at least a portion~~ amplifying portions of said external audio signal ~~that is likely to be of interest to a user.~~ are free of undesired noise; and

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adding said amplified portions of said external audio signal to a selected audio signal for reproduction thereof.

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16. (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is an alarm audio signal.

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17. (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is acoustically distinct from a general background selective noise of a local environment.

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18. (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, wherein said reproduced portion of said external audio signal is associated with speech directed to a user of said method.

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19. (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, further comprising the step of suppressing said external audio signal unless a portion of said external audio signal is likely to be of interest to a user.

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20. (original): The selective noise canceling method of claim 15, further comprising the step of segmenting said external audio signal and reproducing only a desired portion of said external audio signal that is likely to be of interest to a user.

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21. (canceled).